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Message Text

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13
ACTION EUR-12

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---------- 079439
R 121509Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4470

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FOR EUR/SOV

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CVIS, UR, BTRA
SUBJECT: COMMERCIAL VISITOR PROCEDURES

REF: (A) STATE 247134, (B) STATE 216220

1. EMBASSY CONSOFFS MET NOV. 12, WITH KUSTOV AND BOSIKOV OF MFA CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION TO DISCUSS, AMONG OTHER MATTERS, COMMERCIAL VISITORS VISA PROCEDURES. PER INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL A, CONSOFFS INFORMED KUSTOV THAT CLOSED AREA EXCEPTION REQUEST WAS NOT NECESSARY IN ASHASTIN CASE AS ITINERARY DID NOT INCLUDE TRAVEL TO CLOSED AREA. CONSOFFS INFORMED KUSTOV THAT ALTHOUGH COMVIS PROCEDURES, AS PREVIOUSLY EXPLAINED, REQUIRE A SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR AN EXCEPTION TO RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL TO CLOSED AREA, FORMAT OF STATEMENT IN MFA NOTE IN ASHASTIN CASE -- THAT PROPOSED ITINERARY INCLUDED TRAVEL TO CLOSED AREA -- WOULD AS GENERAL RULE BE ACCEPTABLE TO DEPARTMENT, ALTHOUGH DEPARTMENT STRONGLY PREFERRED USE OF CONDITIONAL STATEMENT PER PARA 2C, REFTEL B. KUSTOV SHOWED NO ENTHUSIASM FOR USE SUCH GENERAL EXCEPTION REQUEST AND CHOSE RATHER TO REITERATE PREVIOUS COMPLAINT THAT IDENTIFICATION OF CLOSED AREAS IN COMMERCIAL VISITIORS' ITINERARIES PLACED UNNECESSARY AND DIFFICULT BURDEN ON CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION. HE STATED STRONG PREFERENCE FOR PREVIOUS SYSTEM OF COMMERCIAL VISITOR VISA ISSUANCE PROCEDURES.
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CONSOFFS REPLIED THAT QUESTION WAS NOT OF COMVIS PROCEDURES BUT OF

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FORMAT OF CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION'S CLOSED AREA EXCEPTION REQUESTS AS REQUIRED BY COMVIS PROCEDURES. KUSTOV ENDED DISCUSSION BY REPEATING THAT QUESTION IS STILL UNDER STUDY IN MFA.

2. AS FOOTNOTE TO MFA REACTIONS TO COMVIS PROCEDURES, EMBASSY WAS INTERESTED TO RECEIVE NOV. 12 ITS FIRST IN-PERSON VISA APPLICATION FROM PROSPECTIVE COMMERCIAL VISITOR. SOS MIKHAYLOVICH MOVSISYAN, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN ARMENIAN STATE PUBLISHING COMMITTEE, SUBMITTED APPLICATION TO DEPART NOV. 18 TO ATTEND PRINT-74 EXHIBITION IN CHICAGO. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT PERSONAL APPLICATION WAS RESORTED TO IN HOPE THAT THREE-WEEK COMMERCIAL VISITOR PROCESSING PERIOD AND OTHER COMVIS REQUIREMENTS APPLIED ONLY TO OFFICIAL VISA REQUESTS SUBMITTED BY THE MINISTRY AND NOT TO PERSONALLY SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS. STOESSEL

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